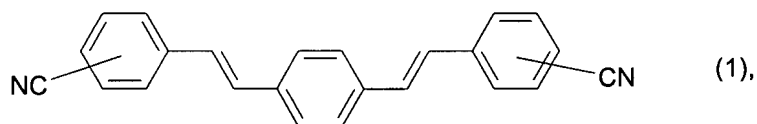


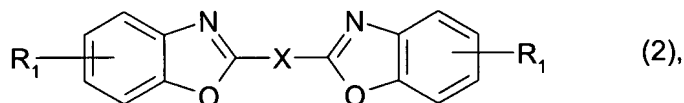
## IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

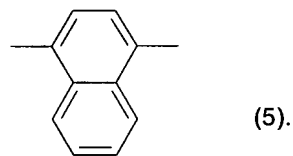
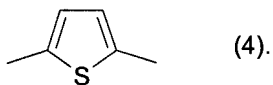
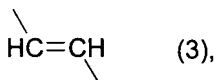
1. (currently amended): A mixture of fluorescent whitening agents comprising ~~11 to 20~~ 13 to 17 % by weight of a compound of formula



and ~~80 to 89~~ 83 to 87 % by weight of one or more compounds of formula

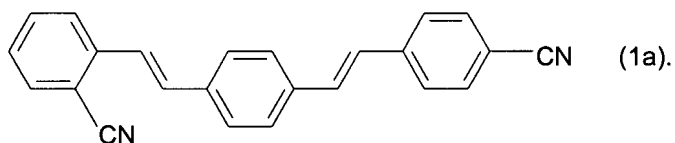


wherein R<sub>1</sub> denotes hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>14</sub>aryl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>aralkyl and X is a bivalent radical of formula (3), (4) or (5)

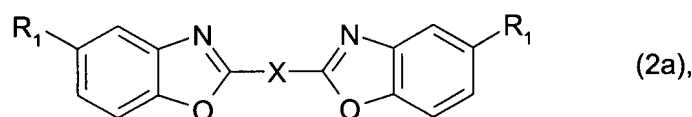


2. (cancelled).

3. (previously presented): A mixture according to claim 1 comprising a compound of formula (1a)



4. (previously presented): A mixture according to claim 1 comprising a compound of formula (2a)



wherein  $R_1$  and X are as defined in claim 1.

5. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein  $R_1$  denotes hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$ alkyl.

6. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein  $R_1$  denotes methyl and X is a bivalent radical of formula (3).

7. (original): A mixture according to claim 4 comprising a compound of formula (2a) wherein  $R_1$  denotes hydrogen and X is a bivalent radical of formula (4).

8. (previously presented): A composition, which contains water, a mixture of fluorescent whitening agents according to claim 1 and, optionally, auxiliaries.

9. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 8 containing water and, based on the total weight of the formulation, from 3 to 25% by weight of the fluorescent whitening agent mixture and 0 to 60% of auxiliaries.

10-11. (cancelled).

12. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 9 containing water and, based on the total weight of the formulation, from 10 to 20% by weight of the fluorescent whitening agent mixture and 5 to 50% by weight of auxiliaries.

13. (previously presented): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent mixture according to claim 1.

14. (previously presented): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent composition according to claim 8.

15. (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise polyester fibres.

16. (previously presented): A method of whitening synthetic fibres, which comprises contacting said fibres in an aqueous medium with a fluorescent whitening agent mixture according to claim 3.